

APRIL 12

the 31st, when off the Mitucus Islands, the expedition was joined by the 74-gun ship Bulwark, frigate Tenedos, and brig sloop Rifleman and Peruvian—from the Rifleman intelligence was received that the United States corvette Adams, of 26 guns, had a few days before put into the Penobscot River, and not deeming herself safe at the entrance, proceeded to Hamden, a place 27 miles higher up, where her guns had been landed and placed in battery for her protection. It was now determined to ascend the river and capture this vessel instead of making Machias on the coast the base of operations. The fleet, led by the Tenedos, made sail up the Penobscot with a fair wind, and by daylight on the 1st September was off the fort and town of Castine, which surrendered after a slight show of resistance. The Peruvian and Slyph sloops, a tender belonging to the Dragon, and the Harmony transport, with about 600 troops, proceeded up the river. Light, variable winds, thick, foggy weather, and a most intricate channel, of which the British were totally ignorant, considerably retarded their advance, and it was not till 5, P.M., on the 2nd that they arrived off Ball's Head Cove, about five miles from Hamden; at 10, P.M., the troops were landed and bivouacked for the night amidst incessant rain. At 6 A.M., on the 3rd they advanced on Hamden. The larger vessels remained in the rear slowly working up stream, while the boats, manned by 80 seamen and 80 marines, advanced on the flank of the troops. The crew of the Adams and a number of Militia men, making altogether a force of 1,400 men, were drawn up in a capital position on a high hill fronting the town of Hamden, with some field pieces in a wood on the right—while in their front about a quarter of a mile from the Adams frigate, a battery of eight 18-pounders commanded the river and highway by which the troops were advancing; another battery of fifteen 18-pounders were mounted on a wharf close to the frigate completely commanding the river, which was here only 600 yards wide. The moment the boats arrived within gun shot a brisk fire was opened on them from the hill and wharf which was rapidly and heavily returned—especially by Congreves rockets, then a new weapon, calculated rather to intimidate than do much execution—in this case if it did not kill it terrified, as the enemy were thrown into such confusion that the troops turned the position and stormed the hill with little opposition, the Militia retreated to Bangor and the Captain of the Adams set her on fire with two other vessels, one of them armed. The loss in this affair was one man killed and eight wounded. The British immediately advanced on Bangor, which also surrendered, and one ship, three schooners and a sloop destroyed. A copper bottomed brig pierced for 18 guns, and the Decatur, privateer, 16 guns, were captured, but destroyed in descending the river.

The Adams had been a 32-gun frigate, afterwards lengthened to carry 36 guns, and subsequently, owing to some defect in construction, cut down to a corvette; she measured 783 tons, and was armed with 20 *Colambiads*, or medium 18-pounder guns, 4 heavy 18-pounders, and 2 heavy 12-pounders, total, 26 guns, with a complement of 248 picked seamen—she was therefore one of the most formidable corvettes afloat. There can be no doubt that the genius and ability of the American naval commanders was strikingly exemplified in the construction of those powerful vessels which enabled them to cope in single combat with officers grown old in actual warfare, and by the preponderance of force compel victory to incline to their standard. A careful study of the details of each action will show that the practical ability and science of seamanship remained with the British throughout, and in the then state of naval appliances it required courage, ability, practical knowledge, and scientific skill of no ordinary kind to take a vessel of war into action, manœuvre and fight her, no class of men required the same amount of knowledge and experience for the discharge of their ordinary duties as the naval officer.

The following is the text of the General Order issued from the War Office for the guidance of Volunteer Officers at the late Easter Monday Review in England:—

"The instructions in regard to marching past, as laid down in the following General Order, must be observed at the Review of Volunteers, to be held at Dover on Easter Monday, the 29th instant:

"G. O. VI.—FIELD EXERCISE AND EVOLUTIONS OF THE ARMY.—The following alterations will be made in S. 13, Part II., and S. I., 2, Part VIII.:

"1. Marching past in open column in quick time.

"On the word 'Forward, by the right,' on entering the saluting alignment, the officers will 'recover' swords and move out in double time to their places as at open order in front of the company, each taking up the quick time and bringing his sword to the 'carry' as he arrives at his place; the covering sergeant will move up to the right of the company and lead it; the rear and supernumerary ranks will not lock up.

"When at ten paces from the saluting point the officers will salute as follows (taking the time from the captain):

"As the left foot leaves the ground bring the sword with a circular motion to the 'recover' during two paces; on the following pace lower it to the salute (edge of the blade in line with the knee, the arm to be straight, hand just below the thigh, the left arm to remain steady), the head to be turned to the reviewing officer while passing him.

"When at six paces from the saluting point, the officers will come to the 'recover,' make a pause of one pace, and on the following pace come to the 'carry.' When at twenty paces they will resume their places with the company, the captain turning to the right the lieutenant and ensign to the left, the ensign moving in double time; the covering sergeant taking his post at the same time.

"JAS. LINDSAY, Major-General.
War Office, 2nd March, 1869."

SENSATIONAL WAR ANECDOTE.

A French Zouave, trumpeter in the Crimean campaign, has written a narrative of his experience, in which he describes an encounter between an Irishman and a Russian, which we would commend to Mr. Kinglake for his next edition, for it "baags" anything to be found in his volumes. It is as follows:—

"This to thy heart, d—d Englishman," yelled out Prince Strenoff, who finding himself at the turn of a street face to face with Lord O'Neil, plunges his sword to the very hilt in his body.

"Thank you," replies the Irishman, availing himself of the moment left him, to discharge his revolver into the still half open mouth of the Russian.

Both fell dead, having no doubt as a dying remembrance the thought of their past friendship. This Lord and Prince had known each other at London and Paris, before the war, and were cited as inseparable.

Thus do the hateful passions of war destroy all the finer feelings of humanity.

Louisville has a velocipede military company

Napoleon has ordered experiments to be made with a new kind of fusee invented by a soldier of the Guard.

HEIGHT OF RECRUITS.—It is announced in general orders that the minimum height for all infantry recruits, whether enlisted at head-quarters or otherwise, is raised from 5 feet 7 inches to 5 feet 8 inches until further orders.

It is reported that a plot for an extensive Fenian raid upon the province of Ontario, to take place immediately after the withdrawal of British regiments, has been discovered.

During the first battle of Bull Run a brigadier general discovered a soldier concealed in a hole in the ground and ordered him to join the regiment. The man, looking him full in the face, placed his thumb upon his nose and replied, "No you don't, old fellow; you want this hole yourself."

Recent experiments at Shoeburyness have completely unsettled all pre-existent ideas on the subject of iron-defences. The plate armor of ships of war which had hitherto resisted the heaviest projectile was easily penetrated and the targets were completely riddled by the Palliser bolt.

The old grenadier from whose flask Napoleon the First drank at Ratisbon during the memorable campaign of 1805, and who, on that occasion, uttered the naive words, "After you, sire," which caused Napoleon to burst into a fit of laughter, died on the 9th of January at the Hotel des Invalides, in his eighty-fifth year.

The death of another Peninsula veteran is announced. The Hon. W. E. Cochrane, son of the ninth Earl of Dundonald, died March 15th at Osnaburg Terrace, Regent's Park. He was born in 1781, and entered the 15th Hussars in 1801, with which regiment he was present as major at Sahagun, in Sir John Moore's expedition in 1808, for which he received a medal. He also received a clasp for Vittoria.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge becomes, by the death of Lord Gough, formally the senior officer of the British army, although by length of service General Sir J. F. Fitzgerald is the senior. The latter entered the army in 1793. There are five others, whose first commissions were issued before the beginning of the present century.